House File 403 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 403

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A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to specific criteria for teacher preparation
- 2 and including effective date provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
- 2 subparagraph (2), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 (2) Administer, prior to a student's completion of the
- 4 practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's
- 5 approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally
- 6 recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge
- 7 of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable
- 8 subject-area-specific discipline-specific, performance-based
- 9 assessment for preservice teacher candidates, centered on
- 10 student learning. A student shall not successfully complete
- 11 the program unless the student achieves scores above the
- 12 twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments
- 13 administered pursuant to this subparagraph The practitioner
- 14 preparation program may determine whether to administer the
- 15 subject and pedagogy assessments or the discipline-specific,
- 16 performance-based assessment to a student.
- 17 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
- 18 by adding the following new paragraph:
- 19 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. Work with the board of educational
- 20 examiners to develop valid and reliable pathways to licensure
- 21 by subject area which a student enrolled in the program may
- 22 elect to pursue.
- 23 Sec. 3. Section 256.16, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
- 24 following new subsection:
- 25 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. a. A council on pathways to licensure
- 26 is established, administratively attached to the board of
- 27 educational examiners, to identify appropriate levels of
- 28 proficiency in each licensure pathway developed pursuant to
- 29 subsection 1, paragraph "d" and to periodically review the
- 30 levels of proficiency in each licensure pathway. The council
- 31 shall consist of the director of the department of education,
- 32 or the director's designee, and the remaining members shall be
- 33 appointed by the executive director of the board of educational
- 34 examiners as follows:
- 35 (1) Three practitioner preparation program faculty members,

1 who shall represent accredited private institutions offering 2 practitioner preparation programs approved pursuant to section 3 256.7, subsection 3. (2) Three practitioner preparation program faculty members 5 who shall represent institutions of higher learning governed by 6 the state board of regents offering practitioner preparation 7 programs approved pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 3. Members appointed pursuant to paragraph "a", 9 subparagraphs (1) and (2) shall serve staggered four-year terms 10 beginning and ending as provided in section 69.19. A vacancy 11 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment 12 and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the 13 vacancy. The council shall elect a chairperson and vice 14 chairperson. The council shall meet regularly as determined by 15 the council, upon the call of the chairperson, or upon the call 16 of a majority of the members. Members shall be reimbursed for 17 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their 18 duties. The board of educational examiners shall provide staff 19 assistance and administrative support to the council. 20 The council shall assist the board of educational 21 examiners and the state board in resolving issues which are 22 directly related to pathways to licensure and practitioner 23 preparation programs. The council shall determine, and shall 24 periodically review, targeted proficiency levels for the 25 assessments administered pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 26 l, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), which shall be adopted 27 by rule by the state board. The council shall formulate 28 recommendations on any issue referred to it by the board of 29 educational examiners or the state board and shall submit 30 its recommendations to both boards within any specified time 31 periods. The council shall submit an annual report with its 32 findings and recommendations, including any recommendations 33 for changes in law or policy, to the board of educational 34 examiners, the state board, the governor, and the general 35 assembly by January 15.

- 1 Sec. 4. COUNCIL ON PATHWAYS TO LICENSURE INITIAL
- 2 RECOMMENDATIONS INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TERMS.
- 3 1. Notwithstanding section 256.16, subsection 3, paragraph
- 4 "c", the council on pathways to licensure shall submit an
- 5 initial report, including its findings and recommendations for
- 6 changes in law or policy, by November 15, 2013, to the state
- 7 board of education, the board of educational examiners, the
- 8 governor, and general assembly, and shall submit its first
- 9 annual report to the state board of education, the board of
- 10 educational examiners, the governor, and general assembly by
- 11 January 15, 2015.
- 12 2. Initial appointments to the council on pathways to
- 13 licensure made pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 3,
- 14 paragraph "a", subparagraphs (1) and (2) shall be for terms as
- 15 follows: Two members shall be appointed for two-year terms,
- 16 two members shall be appointed for three-year terms, and two
- 17 members shall be appointed for four-year terms. The initial
- 18 members shall be appointed by July 1, 2013, to terms that
- 19 expire at 12:00 midnight on April 30 in the year of expiration.
- 20 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following provision or
- 21 provisions of this Act take effect July 1, 2014:
- 22 1. The section of this Act amending section 256.16,
- 23 subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2).
- 24 EXPLANATION
- 25 This bill modifies practitioner preparation program
- 26 requirements specified in Code section 256.16. The programs
- 27 are currently approved by the state board of education.
- 28 Currently, the programs are required to administer subject
- 29 assessments and performance-based assessments. The bill
- 30 requires that the performance-based assessments must be
- 31 discipline-specific, rather than subject-area specific; and
- 32 allows practitioner preparation programs to determine whether
- 33 to administer the subject and pedagogy or the performance-based
- 34 assessments to a student. The bill eliminates a provision that
- 35 requires students to achieve a score above the 25th percentile

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- 1 nationally on the assessment in order to complete the program.
- 2 These provisions take effect July 1, 2014.
- 3 The bill also requires the programs to work with the board of
- 4 educational examiners to develop valid and reliable pathways to
- 5 licensure by subject area and allows students to choose which
- 6 pathway to pursue.
- 7 The bill establishes a council on pathways to licensure,
- 8 attached to the board of educational examiners, to identify
- 9 appropriate levels of proficiency in each licensure pathway
- 10 and to periodically review the levels of proficiency in each
- 11 licensure pathway. The council consists of the director of the
- 12 department of education, or the director's designee, and six
- 13 members appointed to four-year staggered terms by the executive
- 14 director of the board of educational examiners to represent
- 15 the practitioner preparation programs offered by the regents
- 16 universities and three practitioner preparation programs
- 17 offered by accredited private institutions.
- 18 The board of educational examiners shall provide staff
- 19 assistance and administrative support to the council.
- 20 The council shall assist both the board of educational
- 21 examiners and the state board in resolving issues which are
- 22 directly related to pathways to licensure and practitioner
- 23 preparation programs. The council shall formulate
- 24 recommendations on any issue referred to it by those boards
- 25 and shall submit its recommendations within any specified time
- 26 periods. The council shall determine, and shall periodically
- 27 review, targeted proficiency levels for the assessments
- 28 administered pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1,
- 29 paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), which shall be adopted by
- 30 rule by the state board. The council shall submit an annual
- 31 report with its findings and recommendations, including any
- 32 recommendations for changes in law or policy, to the boards,
- 33 the governor, and the general assembly by January 15. However,
- 34 the initial report shall be submitted by November 15, 2013, and
- 35 the first annual report shall be submitted by January 15, 2015.

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- 1 The initial board members shall be appointed to staggered terms
- 2 which begin July 1, 2013, and expire on April 30 in the year of
- 3 expiration.